

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1815

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, JA, UN

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE

1. JAPANESE UN MISSION FIRST SECRETARY SHIGETA AT HIS REQUEST CALLED ON MISOFF 28 APRIL TO DISCUSS PROSPECTS FOR OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE SESSION 3-23 MAY. HE WILL BE ON JAPANESE DELEGATION, AS WILL PROF. YAMAMOTO (WHO HAS SUCCEEDED TO JUDGE ODA'S CHAIR AT TOHOKU UNIVERSITY), AND TWO OR THREE EXPERTS FROM TOKYO INCLUDING A PTT MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO SHIGETA'S QUESTIONS MISOFF OBSERVED THAT THE USSR APPARENTLY REMAINS QUITE INTERESTED IN PRESSING THE MOON TREATY NEGOTIATIONS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. SHIGETA SAID THE AUSTRIANS HERE HAVE TOLD HIM THEY HAVE A TEXT FROM THE SOVIETS (PRESUMABLY THE LATE NOVEMBER ARTICLE X AND X BIS PROPOSAL). BUT THAT JUN HAS NOT SEEN IT. MISOFF NOTED THAT PAST OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF COMPLETION OF THE MOON TREATY LAY IN APPARENT NON-ALIGNED INSISTENCE ON A MORATORIUM ON LUNAR EXPLOITATION UNTIL A REGIME WERE AGREED; IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER INDIA, EGYPT AND OTHERS WOULD BE ADAMANT ON THIS POINT. SHIGETA UNDERSTOOD THAT NEITHER VELLODI (INDIA) NOR
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ABDEL GHANI WOULD BE AT THE SUBCOMMITTEE THIS YEAR.

3. ON DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITES, SHIGETA ASKED WHETHER THE US INTENDS TO INTRODUCE A PROPOSAL ON CONSULTATION ALONG THE LINES OF AMB. BENNETT'S STATEMENT IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE LAST FALL. MISOFF SAID THIS IS BEING CONSIDERED IN WAHSINGTON BUT HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER A DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED. SHIGETA NOTED THAT "CONSULTATIONS" IN JAPANESE USAGE IMPLIES INACTION BYT AN INITIATOR UNTIL CONSULTATIONS RESULT IN AGREEMENT, CITING THE INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITY TREATY. MISOFF EXPLAIED WE WOULD BE USING THE TERM IN A FAR MORE RESTRICTIVE CONTEXT IN DBS DISCUSSIONS AND ITS NON-VETO CHARACTER WOULD BE CLEAR. SHIGETA SAID HE APPRECIATED THE DIFFERENCE. HE COMMENTED HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND HIS DELEGATION'S INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE SESSION IN 1975 IN THIS REGARD; THE INSTRUCTIONS CALLED FOR JAPAN TO SUPPORT DBS PRINCIPLES ON CONSULTATION AND AGREEMENT, ON THE ONE HAND, BUT NOT PRIOR TO CONSENT ON THE OTHER.

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